

Hamilton Field,
Small Arms Ammunition Storage
(Facility No. 191)
Southeast of Caliente Real and South
Perimeter Road intersection
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-E

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
IE-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD Small Arms Ammunition Storage (Facility No. 191)

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
IE-

HABS No. CA-2398-E

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Small Arms Ammunition Storage
Facility No. 191 (southeast of Caliente Real and south Perimeter Road intersection)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

Facility No. 191, designed as a small arms ammunition storage facility, represents a type of defense structure unique to early air bases; later bases relied on underground earthen storage facilities. The building is significant as an example of the application of an important architectural trend (Spanish Colonial Revival) adapted to reflect California's mission heritage in a dramatic departure from traditional military architecture.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

This small rectangular ammunitions storage structure has a raised concrete foundation over earth fill, 12-inch hollow tile brick walls, and a gable roof. Four grilles vent the space below the floor on the north side. The roof rests on exposed rafters and is covered with corrugated asbestos; it has two raised roof ventilators capped in sheet metal. Copper gutters and downspouts are present. Lightning rods extend from the top of each ventilator. Two other rods, connected with a heavy gauge grounded wire, are elevated above the roof ridgeline. A loading ramp on the east end of the structure provides access to double metal doors. This entry is accessed by a set of four stairs on the south side of the ramp. The doors are the primary entrance into the structure and are made of thick oak with decorative exterior strap hinges and rivets. Small sets of four concrete stairs lead to three single metal doors on the sides and west end. The east side entry has a concrete lintel over the door. The structure has no windows. The exterior is in excellent original condition. The interior has an asbestos ceiling for insulation and a concrete and mastic floor for safety in loading ammunitions.

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Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

This structure was completed on May 31, 1934, for a cost of \$5,622.00. Originally it was located at an isolated section of base between the main hangar area and San Pablo Bay, a fitting location for an ammunition storage facility. It was used to store small arms ammunition throughout the history of the base.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Copies of representative floor plans of Facility No. 191, dated in the 1930s and prepared by the Quartermaster's General Office are attached to this form.

Project Information:

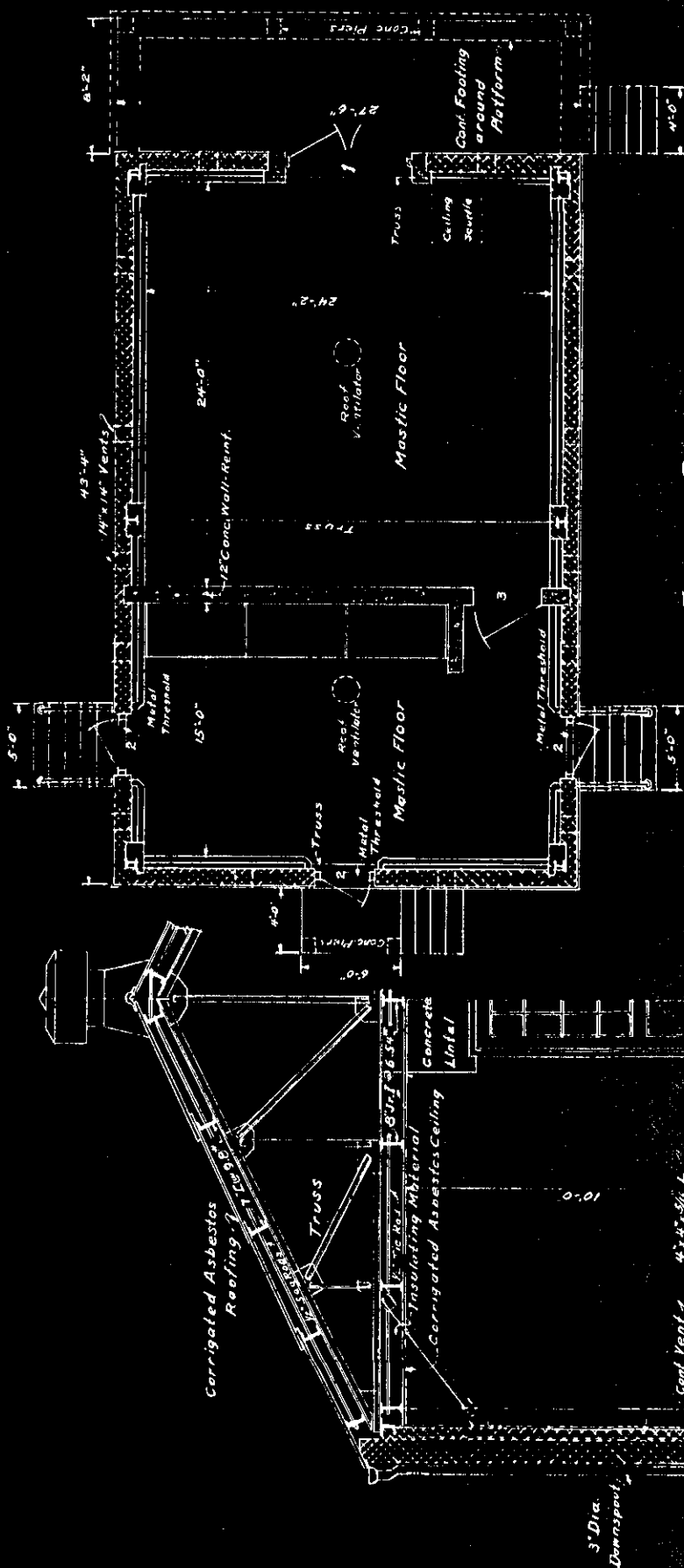
Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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Text prepared by: Mary L. Maniery/Judith Marvin
Title: Historian/Architectural Historian
Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California
Date prepared: July 1995
Photography prepared by: David De Vries
Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California
Date of photographs: September 1994



FLOOR PLAN
 Scale 1/8"=1'-0"

DOOR SCHEDULE	
Mk	Remarks
1	7'-0" x 9'-0" Mfg. Steel Door Steel Frame
2	3'-0" x 8'-0" Mfg. Steel Door Steel Frame
3	4'-0" x 8'-0" Mfg. Steel Door Steel Frame

WAR DEPARTMENT
 OFFICE CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER
 HAMILTON FIELD, CALIF.

LOADING BUILDING

Drawn	By	Checked	By	Date	Project
652-309	7/11/34	652-310	H.B. NURSE	9/13/34	Constructing Quarters
652-310		373-26-34	Capt Q.M.C.		
373-26-34					

1/2 SECTION THRU BUILDING
 Scale 1/4"=1'-0"

See Post Plan No. 373-26-34
 for Complete Details including
 Lightning Protective System.